

Abstract of the Disclosure

A

A signal representative of a key is generated in response to key production information. Encryption-resultant contents information is decrypted in response to the generated signal representative of the key. Key-related information is received which has been generated by an external source in response to an authentication value and at least a portion of the key production information according to a predetermined function. Issue ID information is received which has been generated in response to the authentication value and decryption-side ID information peculiar to a decryption side. The authentication value is reproduced from the decryption-side ID information and the received issue ID information. At least a portion of the key production information is generated from the reproduced authentication value and the received key-related information according to a function inverse with respect to the predetermined function.